

Message Text

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71-60

ACTION NASA-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

SCI-06 EB-11 RSR-01 /104 W
----- 031472

R 231506Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO USNS VANGUARD

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2950

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 5291

THIELE FROM KRATZER.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCLR, TSPA, AR.

SUBJECT: CONTINGENCY PRESS RELEASE.

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A CONTINGENCY PRESS WHICH
WE RECOMMEND BE USED IN THE EVENT OF INQUIRIES CONCERNING
POSSIBLE OFF-SHORE OPERATION OF VANGUARD. IF DEFINITE DECISION
ON SUCH OPERATION IS MADE BEFORE THIS TEXT USED, BELIEVE THIS TEXT
CAN BE USED AS ANNOUNCEMENT OF OPERATION WITH MINOR MODIFICATIONS.
PLEASE ADVISE ASAP IF INQUIRIES ARE RECEIVED AND HOW RESPONDED TO:

TEXT

LAND-BASED ELECTRONIC INTERFERENCE AFFECTING THE QUALITY
OF VITAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE SKYLAB MISSION MAY REQUIRE SPACE
OFFICIAL TO MOVE THE VANGUARD SPACE TRACKING SHIP OUT TO SEA
FROM ITS PRESENT POSITION AT THE ARGENTINE NAVAL BASE IN MAR DEL
PLATA.

THE VANGUARD HAS BEEN STATIONED IN THE MAR DEL PLATA BASE
SINCE LATE APRIL, JUST PRIOR TO THE LAUNCH OF THE FIRST SKYLAB
MISSION FROM CAPE KENNEDY, FLORIDA. ITS MISSION IS TO PROVIDE
TRACKING AND COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE SKYLAB PROGRAM IN THIS
MISSION SUCCESSFULLY WITH VITAL SUPPORT FROM THE ARGENTINE SPACE
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COMMISSION, NAVY AND ENTEL. WHEN A SKYLAB CREW IS ABOARD THE SPACE

LABORATORY, THE VANGUARD IS CLOSELY INVOLVED IN MAINTAINING THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF THE ASTRONAUTS.

BUT, THE EXTREME SENSITIVITY AND COMPLEXITY OF THE VANGUARD'S COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS ARE SUBJECT TO CERTAIN TYPES OF INTERFERENCE, FROM VARIOUS SOURCES OF RADIO WAVES IN THE MAR DEL PLATA AREA, ESPECIALLY THE IGNITION SYSTEMS OF MOTOR VEHICLES. THIS TYPE OF INTERFERENCE IS PRESENT IN ALMOST ANY URBAN LOCATION. AS A RESULT OF THIS INTERFERENCE THERE HAS BEEN A MARKED DETERIORATION IN THE QUALITY OF DATA RECEIVED FROM SLYLAB.

TO HELP EVALUATE AND OVERCOME THIS PROBLEM, OFFICIALS OF THE U.S. NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION (NASA) ARE CONSIDERING MOVING THE VANGUARD A SHORT DISTANCE OUT TO SEA BEYOND THE RANGE OF LOCAL SOURCES OF RADIO INTERFERENCE.

THE VANGUARD HAS BEEN CONDUCTING ITS MISSION UNDER AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ARGENTINE NATIONAL COMMISSION AND NASA. THE SUCCESS OF ITS MISSION HAS BEEN MADE POSSIBLE BY THE EXCELLENT COOPERATION OFFERED BY ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES.
END TEXT.

KREBS

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